



CONGRESSMAN PETE STARK
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Pete Stark
M.C.
PRESORTED STANDARD



TOWN HALL MEETINGS

*Please Join Congressman Pete Stark
for Town Hall Meetings in August.*

Pleasanton

Thursday, August 7
7:00 – 8:30 p.m.
Foothill High School
Multi-purpose Room
4375 Foothill Road

Fremont

Monday, August 11
7:00 – 8:30 p.m.
Main Library
Fukaya Room A & B
2400 Stevenson Blvd.

San Leandro

Tuesday, August 12
7:00 – 8:30 p.m.
San Leandro Library
Lecture Hall
300 Estudillo Avenue

CONGRESSMAN PETE STARK WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU

Please contact my Fremont office, visit my website, or email me for assistance with federal agencies, updates on important legislation, and information on visits to Washington, D.C.

Fremont Office: 510-494-1388

Website: www.house.gov/stark

Email: petemaildirect@stark.house.gov

A REPORT FROM CONGRESSMAN PETE STARK

Making Education A National Priority

“Providing our children with a first-rate education is just as important to America in the 21st Century as protecting our nation from the threat of terrorism.”

Pete Stark



Pete Stark Works for a Strong Education for Every Child

WORKING FOR CALIFORNIA SCHOOLS THAT LEAVE NO CHILD BEHIND

I supported the Leave No Child Behind Act to improve public education. Key to its success is the federal government's commitment to fund programs that boost student achievement. Unfortunately, the President cut funding for Leave No Child Behind, making this a false promise.

Lack of adequate federal funding means schools are being held accountable to standards they don't have the resources to meet. Cuts in teacher pay have made it harder for schools to recruit and train top-quality teachers who are crucial to increasing student achievement. And not one dollar has been spent on modernizing schools. This is why I am working to fully-fund the Leave No Child Behind Act. As California's fiscal crisis forces schools to make due with scarce resources, the federal government must invest more, not less, in our children's education.

STANDING UP FOR QUALITY TEACHERS AND SMALLER CLASS SIZES

Research tells us that students do better when they are in classrooms with highly trained teachers and when the class size is limited. That's why I voted to provide \$1 billion to public schools for teacher training and class size reduction.

Yet, the budget passed by the Republican Majority in Congress refuses to fully fund these very basic measures. If we truly care about our children and the quality of education they receive, we would provide the resources necessary to make sure that their teachers are well-trained and well-paid and that children are taught in environments that are conducive to learning.



*Congressman Pete Stark talks to preschoolers
at Kindango Daycare Center in Fremont,
where he met with teachers to discuss
federal funding for early childhood
education and after school programs.*

EXPANDING HEAD START, ACCESS TO CHILDCARE AND AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Providing high quality early childhood education opportunities to children in the years leading up to kindergarten has been shown to give them a better chance to succeed in school. The highly successful Head Start program has led the way in this effort by helping to level the playing field for children who are economically disadvantaged. The results are clear: those who've been enrolled in Head Start are better adjusted to meet academic challenges and their families are often more involved in their learning. This is why I strongly support expansion of Head Start and adamantly opposed President Bush's effort to alter it.

Not all children are eligible for Head Start, yet nearly all families need high quality childcare. The high cost of childcare has forced many lower income parents into choosing between a good paying, full time job or staying home to care for their kids. As a result, many children are left at home unsupervised and don't benefit from the quality childcare that gives them a better chance to succeed in school. This is why I led an attempt in the House this year to provide \$11.25 billion in aid to working families to help them pay for needed childcare.

After school programs not only keep school age children busy and supervised while their parents are still at work, they also provide enrichment opportunities that support success in school. This is why I am working to provide full funding for the 21st Century After School Learning Programs Act. Making sure resources are invested in this effort will ensure that 174,000 California schoolchildren will receive the academic benefits of after school programs next year.